

Pickering claims PLO approach

UNITED NATIONS (R) — American U.N. Representative Thomas Pickering has said he had foiled off an approach by the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) United Nations observer, since that would have been against United States policy. Pickering had been, seen speaking informally with Naser Al Khidwa shortly before a meeting of the Security Council that postponed until Monday's vote on a resolution dealing with the Israeli-occupied territories. Asked about this, Pickering said: "Dr. Al Khidwa apparently wanted to develop some cooperation. I told him that was not possible. It wasn't possible for us to develop that kind of cooperation." Pickering said he presumed Khidwa wished to discuss the subject being debated by the council, but added: "We don't carry on the dialogue with him." The United States opened talks with the PLO in Tunisia in December 1988 after Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat renounced terrorism and recognised Israel. But Washington broke off the dialogue after the PLO refused to condemn a raid on a Tel Aviv beach last May by one of its constituent guerrilla groups.

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King: Best opportunity for Mideast peace

U.S.-Iraq contacts should be serious dialogue • No stability or elimination of arsenals without peace • Arabs should make way for a mediator • International conference a must

AMMAN (J.T.) — The opportunity for comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East through resolving the Gulf crisis and Palestinian problem on the basis of international legitimacy has never been better, His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday.

The King welcomed the American move to open direct contacts with Iraq as a positive development and "a correction of the course that had been pursued hitherto..." He expressed hope that the initiative "can be the starting point in a serious move to solve the Gulf crisis according to a comprehensive outlook that seeks to solve all the problems of the region, especially the Palestinian problem."

The King, in an address to the new group of graduates from the Staff College, said security and stability of the region and the elimination of mass destructive

weapons from the arsenals of the region's countries cannot be realised in the absence of lasting peace.

The King also issued an impassioned appeal to the Arab leaders to bury their differences over the Gulf crisis and launch an inter-Arab dialogue to come up with a collective stand parallel to the forthcoming U.S.-Iraqi talks.

The King said Arabs could still launch a "rescue operation," adding that a compromise was one of the principles in the search for any settlement of the Kuwait-Iraqi conflict.

"We call for an Arab-Arab dialogue that is parallel to the American-Iraqi dialogue on the Gulf crisis because the issue is one of prime concern to the Arabs," he said.

The King also urged an international Middle East peace conference as soon as United Nations Security Council resolutions on Kuwait began to be implemented.

"It is high time for all to defend

international legitimacy by upholding it, and for the Security Council to show that it applies one and not two yardsticks," the King said.

"...The convening of this conference would put an end to conflicts in our region, pave the way for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction in it and strengthen peace and security," the King said.

The King said the chances of solving the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian problem were better than ever. "Let us seize this opportunity or we will be cursed by God and by history."

Following are major excerpts from the King's speech:

"Our historic duty towards ourselves and our future generations compels us to wake up and to deflect the dangers awaiting us. I believe a rescue operation is still possible and that the respon

sibility for it falls upon us, the Arabs, without any exceptions. If we are resolute in correcting our course and are ready for a peace

fui settlement, then there are some principles which we must recall and abide by.

"The third important principle is the need to discuss the Gulf crisis within a comprehensive outlook which takes into account other problems of the region, which equally threaten world peace and the world's economy. Besides the Gulf crisis, our region, which contains the largest oil reserves alongside a burgeoning arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, still suffers from the serious repercussions of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the failure to resolve the Palestinian problem. It is clear that peace and security will not prevail in the Middle East if only the Gulf crisis is resolved. Weapons of mass destruction cannot be eliminated from the region if the Arab-Israeli conflict is not settled.

"The second principle which needs to be adopted in the Iraqi-Kuwait conflict is the principle of compromise. This principle leads ultimately to a balanced and final resolution since it allows for a process of give and take which results in an outcome acceptable to both parties.

"The King said the chances of solving the Gulf crisis and the

King meets U.S., Soviet officials

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received

U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Henry Rowens and an accompanying delegation and reviewed the latest developments of the Gulf crisis and voiced Jordan's keen desire for a peaceful settlement of the problem.

The King stressed the need for serious work to address all Middle East issues, in accordance with principles of international

legitimacy.

The audience was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shakher and the U.S. ambassador to Jordan.

The King also received U.S. Congressman Wayne Owens (Democrat, Utah), who is currently on a visit to Jordan, and exchanged with him views on the Gulf crisis. Owens is a member of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee.

accompanying Owens.

The King also received Poris Padiashiv, a member of a Consultative Committee at the Soviet Foreign Ministry. The King and Padiashiv reviewed the Gulf crisis and stressed the need to find a peaceful settlement to it as well as other crises in the region.

The meeting was attended by Sheriff Zeid, King Hussein's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and the Soviet ambassador.

He and White House National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft suggested Iraq was not serious about discussing peace, saying its offer for talks in Baghdad Jan. 12 was too close to the U.N. deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait.

They said they had offered Dec. 20, 21, 22 or Jan. 3 for Baker's talks with Saddam. Scowcroft told NBC's "Meet the press" that the Iraqi stand demonstrates "that they're still playing games. They're still manipulating for advantage. They're not serious."

Asked if the result would be Iraq "gaining" from its Aug. 2 invasion, Baker said: "I don't think that you should assume that the negotiations will result in that, because we don't know that."

"But the fact is that what we want to do is make sure that we see full compliance with the Security Council Resolutions, and that we see a security arrangement in place..."

Water, flashpoint in Mideast

By Gwen Ackerman
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM
— Israel has stopped pumping water from the Sea of Galilee and the River Jordan has become a dirty, brown stream. Palestinians often are lucky to get a drip when they turn on the faucet.

Israel is suffering a drought, which in the Middle East means much more than not sprinkling the lawn.

Water is another of the region's many crises, extending beyond Israel to Turkey, Syria, Jordan and Iraq. Water is inseparable from Israel's conflict with the Arabs, and especially the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan has run full-page newspaper ads warning Israelis they would lose nearly 60 per cent of their water if they gave up the occupied West Bank.

"Water is an extremely scarce resource in Israel," the ads say. "In fact, it is in many ways the limiting factor on the country's future development."

As thousands of Soviet immigrants pour in monthly, with one million expected by the end of 1992, everyone fears a shortage.

Palestinians see Israel's handling of water as another attempt to drive them from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Water is a final solution to the Palestinian problem," said

Saeb Erakat, a professor of political science at Al Najah University in the West Bank. "Denying Palestinians water means get out."

Erakat turned on the tap at his home in Jericho, an oasis city since ancient times. A few drops trickled out and he said: "No water, no life."

Eitan calls Israel's dwindling water sources "a potential catastrophe."

On Nov. 25, Israel stopped pumping water from the Sea of Galilee, which supplies about a quarter of its drinking water. The sea had dropped to within two inches of the level where more pumping could turn it into a salt lake.

Reports say the country's underground water also is near the danger level.

Predictions are for a late, plentiful rainfall this winter, but November ended without significant rainfall. A group of rabbis even held a special prayer for rain.

The Gaza Strip has more serious problems than the West Bank or Israel. Open sewers in crowded refugee camps drain into its only water source, an aquifer nearly destroyed by overuse. Israel is already pumping water in for the few thousand Jewish settlers and 750,000 Arabs in Gaza.

In the long run, Eitan talks of importing water from Turkey or Eastern Europe and building desalination plants.

The reserve army general leads the right-wing Tsomet

Party, which wants to make the occupied lands part of Israel. "Giving up control of the West Bank is basically giving up control of the entire water system," said Martin Sherman, one of his advisers.

Water from an underground mountain reservoir that straddles the West Bank and Israel now is divided 90-20 in Israel's favour. The government says this is justified under international law, based on population figures before Israel occupied the territory in 1967.

One-quarter of all Israel's water comes from the reservoir. The ad placed by Eitan's ministry said another aquifer that provides one-third of the supply would be affected if a Palestinian state was created in the West Bank.

Erakat said 30 per cent less arable land is irrigated now than before 1967, reducing the economic output of the West Bank by more than 25 per cent.

Shehadeh H. Dajani, manager of the Arab Development Society in Jericho, used a large map on the wall of his office to point out land that was irrigated before the Israeli occupation.

"This is something they have gained after 1967, and they don't only control the land, but our water from heaven," Dajani said.

Israel has denied taking water that should go to Palestinians.

According to government statistics, Israelis use twice as

much water per person as Palestinians. A government conservation campaign has had little effect and farmers have stymied efforts to raise the subsidized price of water for agriculture.

As the crisis gets worse, Sherman said, the government will have to decide who gets water and how much.

Left-wing legislator Dedi Zucker said water is the deciding factor in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. "It will either force us to cooperate with one another or to kill one another by thirst."

"I would tell the world, if you want to limit the tension in the Middle East, don't send tanks and don't confuse us with fruitless talks," Eitan said. "Send water and that will cool down the Middle East."

In Oja, a village outside Jericho, Mubarak Al Nujoum pointed to fields overgrown with brush and blamed his water shortage on a nearby Jewish settlement that even has a swimming pool.

He said more than half his 10-hectare farm, which supports an extended family of 17 people, no longer is irrigated. He still raises tomatoes, cucumbers and corn, but has stopped growing bananas because they need too much water.

Al Nujoum threw a pebble into an irrigation pond, which he said was only one-third its normal depth.

"These whirls of water are the rings of war here," he said.

Security Council draft on Israeli-occupied territories

UNITED NATIONS (R) — following is the text of a draft resolution being considered by the Security Council on ways of protecting Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The draft is sponsored by Colombia, Cuba, Malaysia and Yemen, has undergone repeated changes and is subject to further amendment.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming the obligations of member status under the United Nations Charter;

Reaffirming further the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war as reiterated in Security Council Resolution 242 (1967).

Having received the report of the secretary-general submitted in accordance with Security Council resolution 672 (1990) on ways and means for ensuring the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians living under Israeli occupation, considering it necessary to increase the impartial international presence in the occupied territories,

Gravely concerned at the dangerous deterioration of the situation in all the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem,

Stressing the need for an active negotiating processes based on Resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) of the Security Council taking into account the right to security for all states in the region, including Israel, and the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, in which all relevant parties would participate, leading to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the secretary-general for his report contained in document S/21919;

2. Deplores the rejection by the Israeli government to comply with Security Council Resolutions 672 (1990) and 673 (1990);

3. Urges the government of Israel to accept the de jure applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, to all the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the said convention;

4. Calls upon the high contracting parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to ensure respect by Israel, the occupying power, for the convention under all circumstances, in accordance with Article 1 of the convention;

5. Welcomes the idea of convening a meeting for the high contracting parties of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and request the secretary-general in cooperation with the ICRC to invite the high contracting parties to discuss possible measures to be taken at that meeting by them under the Convention and report to the council;

6. Requests the secretary-general to monitor and observe the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories on an urgent basis, using the United Nations personnel stationed there, and appointing the necessary staff to accomplish this task, and keep the Security Council continuously apprised;

7. Considers that the convening, at an appropriate time, of an international peace conference on the Middle East, properly structured, with the participation of the parties concerned, would facilitate the achievement of a comprehensive settlement and lasting peace in the Middle East;

8. Requests further the secretary-general to report on the fulfillment of the above provisions, within one month, and decides to reconvene as necessary to consider the situation.

U.S. allies are getting nervous over Bush moves

By Ruth Sims
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — While supporters and critics at home cheer President George Bush's decision to seek talks with Iraq, some of his allies abroad are eyeing a peaceful end to the crisis with distinct trepidation.

The allies in Europe fear that Bush's lips say "no" to negotiations, his actions imply "yes" And the allies in the Gulf say negotiations may get Iraqi President Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait but they won't get him off their backs.

Publicly, the allies expressed relief when Bush announced 10 days ago that Secretary of State James Baker will go to Baghdad. It appeared the United States was pulling back from the brink of war.

But privately, U.S. European allies expressed anger at not being consulted or forewarned of the proposed Baker trip, said a French diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity.

And the Gulf allies, also upset at not being consulted, voiced a greater concern: That while Iraq still may be forced to pull of Kuwait, its million-strong Military and abundant conventional and non-conventional arsenals will remain a menace on their borders.

"He has said this clearly: Saddam will be back to get us," Rashed Al Rashed, former Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, said in an interview last week.

Rashed, who is touring the United States to explain the position of the exiled Kuwaiti leadership, said he hoped Saddam will be toppled by Iraqi opposition forces within one year after he loses Kuwait. The Kuwaiti leadership is supporting the Iraqi opposition organization abroad, he said.

U.S. analysts don't believe Iraq's opposition is strong enough to pose a threat to Saddam. But top U.S. governmental officials are aware of the "threat" Saddam would pose in a post-withdrawal era.

Baker has discussed with the allies creation of a regional security force to deter Iraqi withdrawal.

attack. He has also said the allies will have to devise sanctions to prevent Iraq from acquiring the kind of technology it needs to bolster its chemical and biological weapons, and develop its fledgling nuclear capabilities.

But this could be a slow and futile battle.

"The Gulf neighbour's ultimate concern is the threat Saddam poses to their regimes," said Marvin Feuerwerker, an analyst with the Washington Institute of Near East Policy. "He has a long memory. Their greatest fear is he'll target them and bring them down."

Egypt, which has committed a large contingent to the multinational force in Saudi Arabia, also has mixed feelings about Bush's actions, even though it isn't an immediate neighbour of Iraq.

"To agree to sit down with Iraq before it implements any of the international community's demands is tantamount to acquiescing to Iraqi dictates," the official Al Ahram newspaper said in a recent editorial.

The move elevates Saddam's status in the Arab World, the newspaper said, and "it could limit and shackle America's freedom of action under the watchful gaze of an expectant world."

First indications of such a limitation came when Saddam, clearly catching the United States by surprise, announced Thursday he would let more than 8,000 foreigners leave Kuwait and Iraq.

"The administration couldn't do anything but say it was happy, even while knowing Saddam was manipulating the situation," said a Western diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Bush appears aware of this ploy. In reacting to first word of the release, Bush told reporters in Santiago, Chile, that he would not give Saddam a "face-saving" way out of the crisis and that Iraq would still have to comply with U.N. demands for its unconditional withdrawal.

The Jordan Times Tel: 667171

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

'Israel survival depends on Palestinians' fate'

DIHAHRAN (R) — A Saudi newspaper, marking the third anniversary of the intifada, said Sunday the survival of Israel depended on an end to the "suffering of the Palestinians." The Riyadh Daily said Arabs would make "every effort to release them from the clutches of their tormentors" and help them achieve their dream of a Palestinian state. The daily, which like other English-language newspapers generally reflects Saudi government thinking, said in an editorial the uprising showed Palestinians' will is unbroken. Though their dreams are nowhere near fruition, they are certain of the day when (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir or his successors will be forced to heed the collective voice of the Palestinians. Shamir and his band of fascists must understand that the Palestinians are not alone in their battle. "Almost everybody in the expansive Arab Nation, despite their internal differences, share the torment of the Palestinians. Every effort will be made to rescue them from the clutches of their tormentors." The paper predicted that the "coming months are not going to be easy ones for Shamir. For the existence and survival of his own people, he must end the suffering of the Palestinians and make their dreams come true."

Sudan rebels claim capture of town

NAIROBI (R) — Rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have captured the key stronghold of Tambura, near the border with the Central African Republic, the rebel radio reported Saturday. Tambura, 440 kilometres west of the southern regional capital Juba, fell Friday after a fierce battle, including hand-to-hand fighting, said the radio monitored in Nairobi. Capture of Tambura completes the liberation of all towns in the area, it added. The radio said SPLA forces were now advancing towards Wau, 240 kilometres north of Tambura. Wau, already under siege from the rebels, is the administrative centre for Bahr Al Ghazal province. The radio called on civilians to help the SPLA forces to capture Wau, after a string of victories in Western Equatoria province culminating in the capture of Tambura. United Nations refugee officials recently reported a large influx of Sudanese refugees into the central African Republic, who said they were fleeing from fighting between the SPLA and government forces.

Kuwait oil chief bars some reporters

CAIRO (R) — Toppled Kuwaiti Oil Minister Rashid Salem A. Ameen Saturday barred Iraqi, Jordanian and Palestinian reporters from a news conference in Egypt. They included Reuter correspondent Rawhi Abeidah, a Jordanian, and Walid Khader, an Iraqi national representing the Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey. Ameen gave no reason for his action.

Algerians join Afghan war, paper says

CONSTANTINE, Algeria (R) — At least 11 young Algerians from the eastern city of Constantine have fought alongside rebels in Afghanistan and one has died in combat, a local weekly reported. The current issue of Al Fajr, which interviewed family members of the fighters, said growing numbers of Algerian Muslim fundamentalists were joining the war against the Soviet-backed government. It spoke of the anguish of families whose "children suddenly disappeared, only to reappear in Peshawar (on the Pakistan-Afghan border)." The paper said volunteers used three routes to reach Pakistan — through Saudi Arabia, Europe and Turkey. The only contact the conscripts had with their families was a post office box in Saudi Arabia, the paper added.

Algerian activists urge action on Touareg

ALGIERS (R) — A leading Algerian human rights activist urged the United Nations Saturday to investigate killings of Touareg desert tribesmen in Niger and Mali. Ali Yahia Abdou, president of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights, told a news conference: "We must launch a cry of alarm to help these people. It is an urgent problem... that should be put before the United Nations Human Rights Commission." The London-based human rights group Amnesty International has accused Niger of executing 40 Touareg rebels last May.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre .. 1831813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann .. 6442816

Al-Aqsa Maternity .. 6424411

Al-Aqsa Maternity .. 642360

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

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Hallucination and War Fever

THE U.N. SECURITY Council failed again on Saturday and Sunday to adopt the much-awaited resolution on the Palestinian problem. Once again it was the U.S. which stopped the council from going ahead with the vote on the proposed resolution by threatening to use its veto power against it. At issue in Washington's point of view is the mere mention of the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East. The mere whisper about the need to convene such a conference has already held up adopting a resolution on protecting the Palestinians in the occupied territories for over two months now. If just hinting that such a forum is so much of an anathema to the U.S. what good will it do to pursue the point anyway? The idea of an international parley on the Palestinian situation and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict is already beset by a multitude of contentious issues between the Arab and Israeli sides. If on the top of all that getting to the conference has become a mission impossible, what can the parties expect from it once it really gets going? There is no way that the conference idea would ever materialise without a deep commitment from the parties concerned to it as a forum to negotiate peace terms between the two sides.

Washington has offered the strangest of excuses for aborting the idea of convening such a conference. The U.S. representative to the U.N., Thomas Pickering, has advanced the bizarre notion that incorporating language on the international conference idea in the proposed resolution would be tantamount to presenting Iraq with linkage that it demands between the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict. In other words, Pickering has concluded, the acceptance of the reference to an international peace conference would be like rewarding Baghdad. If there is any party which is now establishing such a linkage between the two situations it is Washington. By insisting that reference to the conference would offer an organic link between the Kuwaiti and Palestinian situations it is the U.S. and the U.S. alone which is unwittingly making this linkage stand. There is not a single word in the draft resolution on the Palestinian problem that mentions or touches on the Gulf crisis. Why then does Washington see linkage when there is none? Some people must be hallucinating back there in Washington. We both hope and pray that it is not The War Fever which is causing it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday commented on reports that the United States will purchase Israeli-made drones to be deployed in Saudi Arabia at the estimated cost of \$500 million. This is a clear indication that the presence of American forces in the Gulf has thus opened the door for Israeli military industries to enter the Arab countries of the Gulf, the paper noted. This also means that the United States wants to open the door for Israel's presence in the Gulf states, so that it will party to any conflict, backing the American-led forces arrayed against Iraq, the paper added. Needless to say that such development has far-reaching serious consequences and underlines the fact that the United States is determined to impose its hegemony on the Arabs at any cost and with the help of its strategic ally, the paper continued. There is urgent need now for the Arab countries to wake up and realise the danger and take the initiative to contain the Gulf crisis to prevent Washington from initiating Israel in a conflict against the Arabs on one hand, and to abort America's plots against the Arab nation on the other, the paper said. The paper said that the upcoming American-Iraqi dialogue can by no means serve as an alternative to a pan-Arab initiative to solve the crisis, and it is incumbent on the Arab leaders to see to it that Israel is denied the chance of launching aggression on an Arab country.

For the past five weeks, the United Nations has failed to take a proper resolution concerning the situation in the Israeli-held Arab territories to provide protection to the Arab people or to call for an international conference to help implement Security Council resolutions on the Palestine problem, says a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that the United States had been playing a key role over the past weeks to delay any United Nations action as it did over the past two decades to freeze the implementation of Security Council resolutions which call for Israel's withdrawal from Palestinian land. Encouraged by the American attitude, the Israeli government has been escalating its atrocities against the Palestinians and stepping up campaigns for absorbing more Jewish settlers and building settlements on Arab lands, says the writer. It is clear that the present U.S. administration is following in the footsteps of the earlier administrations in rendering the world community's will ineffective and its resolutions aborted, Rimawi adds. Indeed, the U.S. administration is trying to exploit the Gulf crisis in a manner to let the world community forget about the Arab-Israeli conflict, and to direct its attention towards Iraq; and it is trying to ignore the fact that all tensions in the region emanate from the Arab-Israeli conflict which has been on the agenda of the United Nations for more than four decades, the writer says. He notes, however, that the United States believes it has succeeded in its conspiracy, but the other permanent members at the U.N. Security Council will sooner or later interfere and put an end to such underhand dealings.

Weekly Political Pulse

Politics that favour the strong over the weak

The Arab side still calls for convening an international conference on the Middle East with vigour and faith. This Arab decision is based on the proposition that dealing on their own with Israel, they would not have a good chance of ever retrieving their lost territories or their sense of honour. The Arab submission is based on raw power politics analysis which militarily favour the strong over the weak. Being the weak side of the equation, the Arabs have long concluded that their best bet is to hold an international peace conference on the Palestinian question and the broader Arab-Israeli conflicts under the umbrella of the U.N. Security Council. It was thought that the presence of the permanent members of the Security Council, especially the Soviet Union, in any such conference would guarantee them at least some semblance of support, understanding and even some sympathy.

If such Arab rationale held any water in the pre East-West thaw, it surely does not hold it anymore. With Moscow losing grip on all manifestations of a super power and retreating to being a country afflicted with hunger and deprivation it can no longer afford to side with the Arabs for dubious long term returns. This is not to mention the profound ideological metamorphosis that has occurred recently in the country rendering it indistinguishable from any other "Western nation." The enslavement of the Soviet Union by the overpowering economic and political factors that have hit it recently have effectively transformed it into a good

abiding ally of the U.S. on matters that really count in world affairs. If there is any doubt about how much the Soviet Union has gone under, the recent string of U.N. Security Council resolutions on Iraq tells a horrific story about the extent that Moscow will go to tow Washington's line on major international issues and conflicts. If the record of Moscow in the recent Security Council debates on Iraq is a sample of what can be expected from it in any given international forum, then the Arab side would be better advised to shun the international conference idea whether held as the cherished linkage point between the Gulf crisis and the other Middle East conflicts or not. If the Security Council debates on the Gulf crisis are not enough to demonstrate the extent to which the permanent members would go to appease Washington on critical disputes, the following debates on the Palestinian issue would erase all lingering doubts on the point. For weeks on end, the Council members kept debating the Palestinian situation but were prevented from taking any serious decision due to filibustering by Washington and other permanent members not excluding Moscow. With such a record, one wonders if conducting negotiations between Israel and the Arab side to the Arab-Israeli conflict under the auspices of that "august" international body would reap for the Arab side any meaningful aid and comfort.

This would lead one to conclude that the international conference idea has lost its operational utility not to mention its glamour and charm. The Arab side may fare better on its own

provided it engages Israel in direct talks as one team. The biggest danger in any proposed Arab-Israeli talks is conducting them with each Arab party separately. If Israel can manage to negotiate with each Arab party sequentially, then they become much easier to devour. That was essentially the major pitfall in the Camp David negotiations between Egypt and Israel. Had all the Arab parties engaged Israel as one body they would have been able to arrive at a much more honourable accord that could have addressed all the dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflicts.

So instead of singing the old song about the international conference on the Middle East, the Arab side should be searching for other mechanisms and forum to resolve their conflicts with Israel. The principle point is to decide whether the Arab World wants to fight or talk. If talking is their final choice, it makes little difference where and how such talks are held. If the Arab nation is waiting for a marked improvement in the international political climate in its favour, then I am afraid if has a long wait. The way the Arab countries behaved against Iraq and the extent to which they were to conspire even against its very being, demonstrates that neither the Arab environment nor the international climate are anything but comforting to their cause. The Palestinian people and their leaders may or may not have drawn many painful conclusions from the events surrounding the Gulf crisis. Yet in the final analysis, the Palestinian people would remain effectively on their own depending on their own struggles to arrive at an honourable solution to their cry for recognition and statehood.

The rich get richer while the poor ...

By Richard Walker
Reuter

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia. — Eastern Saudi Arabia is humbling with men and expanded business as companies and merchants benefit from a stronger basic economy sweetened by new demand from the military machine in the Gulf.

This rugged oil-rich region that is hosting the bulk of the U.S.-led multinational force arrayed against Iraq, was enjoying an improved business confidence even before Iraq's occupation of Kuwait four months ago, corporate executives and diplomats said.

Those who track the Saudi economy say the presence of more than 200,000 foreign troops in the kingdom has sparked a "mini-boom."

The influx of thousands of Kuwaiti exiles was another factor, they added.

The eastern province is normally reckoned about 1.5 million people so we figure with troops and refugees it's adding another half million, boosting the population by a third in a matter of months," said a European businessman who requested anonymity.

A Western banker said it is estimated in Saudi financial circles that the presence of U.S.-dominated multinational forces in the Gulf region has generated new business worth one billion Saudi Riyals (about \$267 million) per day.

"But it could be much, much more. Over a six-month period, that's a hell of a bundle of cash," he added.

A senior executive of a long-established Saudi trading family stressed that he regards "the very healthy volume of business from the military (as) a very temporary phenomenon."

"We were already well on the road to recovery from the low point of two years ago... the presence of the U.S. military and others has given a boost to an already-reviving economy," the executive, who also asked not to be named, told Reuters.

'I really don't call this a crisis. The whole region is booming for us.'

Firms ranging from major corporations like the huge state-run oil producer Saudi Aramco to private local firms have evacuation contingency plans for workers in case of war.

But knowledgeable sources agreed that optimism for near-term financial prospects has largely overridden the initial crisis-linked fears of local businessmen.

Accelerated multi-billion dollar plans for expansion by Aramco into the 21st century as well as military spending, the growth of petrochemical industries and government-backed economic diversification are the keys for this brightened outlook, businessmen and diplomats said.

"We coined the phrase, business as usual - but not under normal circumstances." Theo-

dore Bevec, a Saudi-based executive of Ameron Inc., the California-based oil industry construction firm, said in an interview.

"You'd think there'd be some (foreign) businesses who would have pulled out after the invasion. It's been kind of surprising that I've not heard of any," said Bevec, who acts as chief spokesman for U.S. business in the Gulf region as head of the American Business Council.

"It could get very nasty here if war breaks out," he said. "Whatever happens, we're looking long-term. This market bounces back very quickly. We're expanding our training programme and expect aggressive growth in the area."

But several diplomats and businessmen said the impasse between Iraq and the U.S.-led coalition over Kuwait has slowed work to drum up new non-military investment from Western and Asian sources.

"The prospect for investment in the next decade should be very good. But with Europe 1992, the romance of Eastern Europe and now the current crisis, I can see a marking of time on new investment in the region until there's a resolution," a Western diplomat said.

A number of possible new joint ventures between outside firms and Saudi interests are "on hold," a Western banker said. But he predicted "interest will be revived very quickly if there's a fight and Saddam Hussein gets a bloody nose."

"But if Iraq merely withdraws from Kuwait and goes unblown, it could prove unsettling for some of these projects because troops will have to remain in Kuwait and Iraq will still be a threat," he added.



A camel getting a lift to the market in Hofuf, Saudi Arabia. A bedouin tribesman uses modern technology to hoist his stock onto a truck headed for a weekly sale where prize camels sell for as much as \$10,000.

Food is latest weapon in Soviet political, economic battle

By Jonathan Lyons
Reuter

MOSCOW — Maya Kozlova balanced a scrawny chicken in one large hand, as if weighing it against the wad of pale-blue five-ruble notes clutched tightly in the other.

"There was a time, this stuff was practically free," she said, waving at the piles of meat, eggs and cheese on sale in Moscow's central farmers market.

"But now..." she said, slowly counting out 35 roubles, 10 per cent of her monthly salary as an engineer. "Now, we spend all we have on food."

A small crowd, gathered around fresh loins of pork, nodded in agreement.

"And ordinary shoppers, polled at random in Moscow, say that while many goods are no longer available, no-one among their families and friends is going hungry."

Industrial workers, in theory the backbone of the ruling Communist Party, are being well supplied through distribution in their factories and enterprises.

"He who doesn't work here, doesn't eat," says a sign outside a meat processing plant in a bitter front-page cartoon in Izvestia, the influential reformist daily.

The most serious problems appear to be among young families, hit especially hard by a severe milk deficit and long-standing shortages of children's food.

"My little boy eats enough, but I worry he is not getting the right vitamins," said one mother as she waited in a queue for salt, the only item on sale in a state meat store.

The whole traditional system of distribution has collapsed, and

parallel methods of distribution have arisen," Moscow's radical mayor, Gavril Popov, told the city's Communist Party last week.

The Kremlin's attempts at reform have added to the problem.

Economist Andrei Sizov told the Liberal Moscow News that

higher state procurement prices for grain, lower utility rates and the writing off of big debts — all to the tune of 100 billion roubles — meant farmers could maintain their income levels with lower production.

With nothing to buy for roubles, farmers have no incentive to sell more to the state. Moscow was now paying the price for moving too slowly on agricultural reform, Sizov said.

Food producers, meanwhile, are turning increasingly to barter with other enterprises, siphoning more food from official channels under central control.

"Wherever a farmer turns now for tractors, cars, spare parts, timber, glass, cement, he is told: 'you give us meat, cheese or grain and you'll get what you want,'" wrote the agricultural daily Sel'skaya Zhizn.

"So grain has turned into a hard currency itself for which you can get anything you want," it said.

The newspaper said the Kuban region harvested 10.3 million tonnes of grain but had not met state delivery targets of four million tonnes. That pattern holds true

fanning the food panic, at home and abroad, are distortions unique to the Moscow market, particularly the presence of foreigners, who push up prices.

"Many diplomats use the currency black market, so 30 roubles (is around \$1.5) per kilo for meat," said a conservative senior Soviet official.

"Strictly speaking, Muscovites have enough to eat, but all this bypasses shop shelves and the normal trade system."



Soviet women in Leningrad carry cabbages as the city begins to ration food. Distribution problems and panic-buying have left many shops empty, and long queues formed along the main shopping avenue.

Reports from farm areas in the cutbacks were also in reaction against new policies in Moscow and Leningrad barring residents from the traditional better supplies of goods available there.

King: It is an Arab responsibility to achieve peace

Following is the full text of a speech delivered by His Majesty King Hussein at the Staff College Sunday.

Brother officers, distinguished guests,

On this auspicious occasion, which has become a blessed national event, I greet you as comrades in arms and dear brothers. I am pleased to be with you again to celebrate your graduation from the Staff College.

I am delighted to commence by congratulating the graduating officers and thanking the General Command of the Armed Forces for its ceaseless work to increase the efficiency of our courageous Arab army. I also share with the College Command its pride in this achievement and express my appreciation of the efforts of its faculty and staff.

In particular, I extend my warm congratulations to the officers from sisterly and friendly countries who have taken part in this thirty-first class of the Staff College. Their participation with Jordanian officers bears a special meaning which we cherish and will always maintain and seek to strengthen.

Brother officers, distinguished guests,

This time last year, shortly after the Bush-Gorbachev summit in Malta, and in this same place, I addressed the thirtieth graduating class. In that address I touched on several current issues of the time, in particular the promises and dangers of detente, and expressed my hope that the Arab countries would formulate a pan-Arab vision towards the emerging new international order so that we would not be taken by surprise and discover, belatedly, that new international relationships were being formed at our expense.

I remember that on that occasion I spoke with hope more than with fear. There were, on the one hand, inter-Arab problems and differences, whether open or hidden. On the other, the world beyond was moving at a pace far exceeding our countries' capacities to monitor, follow and eventually equip themselves to deal with the new situation, whose ramifications pointed clearly to a world embracing democracy, and espousing cooperation instead of confrontation.

Nonetheless, we were hopeful that these deep-rooted changes in international relations, with all the challenges they represented, would propel our nation to mobilise, reorganise itself and seek, with a deep sense of history, to project itself effectively on the world scene as a civilised, economic and political group, capable of dealing with others with confidence and mutual respect. Our hope, then, was that the Arab states would have been able to draw the proper conclusions from the changes that took place in numerous countries and move to apply democratic principles and safeguard human rights including freedom of expression. Many of the conflicts and problems that have arisen in several Arab countries and between them were due to the absence of the norms, behaviour and institutions of democracy.

Hoping to revive the Arab Nation, we continued to communicate with our Arab brethren. We did so motivated by a firm conviction in the inevitable coming together of our nation on sound and rational foundations, based on the belief in God and our common destiny, goals and interests. Thereafter we put border-related disputes between some Arab states as a principal item on our agenda considering them as fundamental weaknesses which must be addressed and remedied.

Of those cracks in the Arab system, the Iraq-Kuwait dispute was, in our view, the one that should have received the greatest attention and care to resolve it, because it had reached a very critical and explosive phase in an area whose regional and international importance cannot escape anyone. With good will and the best of intentions, we used our good office with both sides — Iraq and Kuwait — in order to narrow their differences and help bring about an amicable solution. Unfortunately, neither our efforts nor those of the others brought the desired results.

Hence our worst fears were realised and the Gulf crisis erupted throwing our region into a new phase of its modern history. The Arab order found itself facing a severe test, the like of which it had never experienced since the creation of the League of Arab States. Disagreements between two sister countries turned into a wider chasm in the Arab system which foreign powers, in pursuit of their interests, hastened to penetrate and to interfere

directly in our own Arab affairs. In this regard we, in Jordan, decided from the very first day of the crisis that our pan-Arab duty dictated that we should not be dragged into taking sides. We held this position in order to be able to work with everyone who opted for a similar attitude to contain the problem and bury the seeds of sedition and resolve the crisis through peaceful means within an Arab framework. Our deep concern was the fear that the problem would be internationalised thus growing in scope and complexity.

This is why we were keen to seek a peaceful resolution to this conflict within an Arab framework, based on our adherence to the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and to ensure the rights and interests of the two sisterly countries.

Regrettably events took the course which we had feared. A process of escalation started which complicated the crisis. The one problem became multi-faceted and the parties to the conflict increased to include others beyond the original two antagonists. The Arab Nation suddenly found itself facing a situation reminiscent of the dangerous one in which it found itself in 1918. Then, it discovered that its course had been set for it through the Sykes-Picot Agreement, the Balfour Declaration and, at a later stage, by the League of Nations.

I do not intend to review the events since August 2, with which you are familiar. But I will say that our Arab region is on the verge of a very destructive war. This war, God forbid that it should happen, will result in a grave tragedy which will affect not only the present, but also the future. In addition, it will cause a severe international economic crisis, an environmental catastrophe, deep wounds that will take a long time to heal, and long-lasting world instability. What are we to do? Will we allow ourselves to slide into this abyss? Or will we recognise this bitter reality and its ramifications? Will we transform August 2, 1990 into a scar that will be concealed by the restoration of Arab solidarity, or will we allow it to become a festering wound depleting our strength for a long time?

Our historic duty towards ourselves and our future generations compels us to wake up and to deflect the dangers awaiting us. I believe a rescue operation is still possible and that the responsibility for it falls upon us, the Arabs, without any exceptions. If we are resolute in correcting our course and are ready for a peaceful settlement, then there are some principles which we must recall and abide by.

Foremost amongst these principles that must be activated is the one that gives the Arab mediator the opportunity to act by engaging both parties to the conflict in a dialogue which will prepare the road for them to sit down together to negotiate a resolution to the problems which gave rise to this conflict.

The third important principle is the need to discuss the Gulf crisis within a comprehensive outlook which takes into account other problems of the region, which equally threaten world peace and the world's economy. Besides the Gulf crisis, our region, which contains the largest oil reserves alongside a burgeoning arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, still suffers from the serious repercussions of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the failure to resolve the Palestinian problem. It is clear that peace and security will not prevail in the Middle East if only the Gulf crisis is resolved. Weapons of mass destruction cannot be eliminated from the region if the Arab-Israeli conflict is not settled. Likewise the world will not be reassured of its economic stability if the entire region does not achieve security based on a just and honourable peace.

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AC Milan beats Olimpia 3-0 in world soccer club final

TOKYO (R) — Italy's AC Milan overpowered Olimpia of Paraguay 3-0 to win the World Club Soccer Championship for the second successive year Sunday.

Superb marksmanship by its three Dutch stars — Frank Rijkaard, Marco Van Basten and Ruud Gullit — and impeccable defensive play made Milan the best club side in the world.

Two headed goals by Rijkaard and a third from midfielder Giovanni Stroppa after brilliant work by Van Basten gave Milan a comfortable victory a plucky but very dangerous Paraguayan side.

Olimpia's much-vaunted forward line was never able to find a way through a defence marshalled by skipper Franco Baresi and was largely restricted to shots from outside the penalty area.

The game, fast and open, de-

lighted a capacity 60,000 crowd in the national stadium and a worldwide television audience of hundreds of millions.

In the 61st minute, a long through ball found Van Basten clear on the right. He danced around defenders on his way into the penalty area and his shot from close in hit one of them before bouncing off a post, giving Stroppa an easy tap in.

Just four minutes later, Van Basten, again clear, hit a dazzling lob from outside the penalty area, which bounced off the bar for the whole game.

Olimpia's coach Luis Cubilla told a news conference after the game.

"In a big game like this, the emotional state is very important. The team that scores first can relax and that is just what happened today," he said.

Milan ran riot for the first 20 minutes of the second half, with

dazzling teamwork which made more space on the wings as Olimpia were forced to push forward.

In the 61st minute, a long through ball found Van Basten clear on the right. He danced around defenders on his way into the penalty area and his shot from close in hit one of them before bouncing off a post, giving Stroppa an easy tap in.

Just four minutes later, Van Basten, again clear, hit a dazzling lob from outside the penalty area, which bounced off the bar for the whole game.

Olimpia's coach Luis Cubilla told a news conference after the game.

"In a big game like this, the emotional state is very important. The team that scores first can relax and that is just what happened today," he said.

Milan ran riot for the first 20 minutes of the second half, with

Tyson knocks out Stewart in 1st round

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (R) — Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, swarming over Alex Stewart from the opening bell, knocked him down within 10 seconds of the start of the fight and dropped him twice more in the first round to win his second comeback bout since losing the title.

Tyson played better as a team than we did," Cubilla said. "They played a close to perfect game. We are very disappointed but have no complaints."

Milan coach Arrigo Sacchi said after the game that he told his team at half-time to press more and use the whole width of the field.

Rijkaard said: "Now I feel a little tired but it is a comfortable feeling. I'm very happy to win the championship match again."

Asked where Milan could go after winning the title for the second year running, Sacchi replied with a smile: "This is our job. This is what we are paid for. We will continue to do our work."

to come out strong."

Asked for the difference between himself now and when he lost the title to James "Buster" Douglas last February in Tokyo, Tyson said: "My mind is more in shape. I'm better prepared mentally."

Canadian Donovan "Razor" Ruddock, almost certain to fight Tyson in the near future, knocked out Journeyman Mike Rouse in the first round in an undercard bout.

"I'd love to fight Razor Ruddock to show that he isn't the baddest person in the world," Tyson said.

"I knew he wasn't going to keep getting up for long," Tyson said.

"After the hook to the body, I knew it was over. I never lost my confidence. I'm the best. I just wanted to do my job," Tyson said.

"It's too bad, I really like him personally," he said of Stewart.

"I just got caught. That's all. I lost to somebody better today," Stewart said. "He won. I didn't run. I think that was my big mistake. I didn't want to run. I wanted to get it on. I thought I would get caught but not that early."

"You get knocked down three times in the first round, (there's) not much you can do. I didn't freeze, I just didn't get into the fight."

Chavez retains title

Mexico's Julio Cesar Chavez retained two titles after knocking down Kyung-Duk Ahn three times and making the South Korean quit at two minutes and 14 seconds of the third round Saturday.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY DECEMBER 10, 1990
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

dowed with common sense, then get out with your family.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You find all kinds of personal conflicts in the morning but take them in stride, then later you are able to handle all matters more wisely.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You now can get rid of whatever is troubling you and confusing by doing what must be done, then you will be able to have some fun.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your friends can be a morning puzzle to you and then you can work on personal desires that you are trying to gain precious time.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Do nothing that could bring you the ill will of those in authority early but later you can join friends in the amusements that all enjoy.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is the time to refrain from going off on some appealing will goose chase and you will be able to impress higher-ups with your talents.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is the time to get all overdue obligations taken care of and it is a day to get off to games, sports and recreations that you enjoy.

Arsenal fails to topple Liverpool

LONDON (R) — Arsenal captain Tony Adams was sent off for the first time in his career Saturday, shattering his club's hopes of leading the English first division.

With champions Liverpool out of action due to snow at Nottingham Forest, Arsenal were on course to take over at the top until Adams gave away a 73rd minute penalty at Luton.

Arsenal, who beat Liverpool 3-0 Sunday, had taken the lead through England's Alan Smith a minute before halftime but had to settle for a 1-1 draw after Adams was sent off for dissent over the penalty incident.

Liverpool's tie at Forest was one of three first division matches to be called off because of snow.

Bottom club Sheffield United, without a league win this season and playing Liverpool at Anfield next week, will probably have to wait until the new year for a first victory.

Their home clash against near-by Derby was postponed as was Aston Villa's game against Manchester City.

London was not hit by the weather although Tottenham

might have wished Sunderland had stayed at home.

The newly-promoted north-
erners led 2-0 at halftime at White Hart Lane but Tottenham fought back to 3-3.

The match was held up in the 23rd minute when the referee went off with a leg injury to be replaced by a linesman whose first action was to disallow a Tottenham goal.

Tottenham moved into third place after Crystal Palace lost 2-1 at Chelsea. Liverpool have 39 points, Arsenal 36 and Tottenham and Palace 30.

Adams, already in trouble after an alleged incident at Queen's Park Rangers two weeks ago, was sent off after the felled Luton striker Iain Dowie and then argued with the referee. John Dreyer converted the penalty.

Swedish international Anders Limpar joined Luton's Sean Farrell, Marvin Johnson and Jason Rees in the referee's book as the match threatened to boil over after the equaliser.

Until that moment Arsenal had been in control of the match and looked certain to oust Liverpool equaliser.

Rome to host basketball championships

ROME (AP) — Rome was officially designated as host of the 1991 European Men's Basketball Championships.

The Executive Commission of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), holding a one-day meeting, said the championships will be held at Rome's Palaeur Arena on June 24-29.

The eight countries which qualified for the final round are Yugoslavia, Greece, Italy, Spain, France, Bulgaria, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Immediately after the fight Tyson's promoter Don King shouted: "We're back."

Tyson said: "I'm the best. I exploded tonight. I was hungry. I knew he was a dangerous fighter once he got warmed up. So I had

been struggling in the relegation zone.

Haan, clearly forgetting his "total football" playing days in Johan Cruyff's attractive Dutch national side of the 1970s, sent his team onto the Olympic Stadium pitch determined to defend.

After Wobifarth's goal Bayern looked solid without creating many goalscoring chances.

"We made life difficult for ourselves," Coach Jupp Heynckes said. "Nuremberg gave us very little space and set up a concrete ring around their goal. But a team like us should still manage to score goals and dominate the match more."

Bayern have a good chance of staying top when they visit lowly Bayer Uerdingen next week for their last game before the break.

Kaiserslautern played out a dramatic 2-2 draw with Borussia Friday when both teams had chances to snatch victory and two players scored twice.

Joerg Criesi gave Borussia a 1-0 lead in the 21st minute before

Kaiserslautern striker Bruno Labbadia equalised one minute before halftime.

Five minutes into the second half Labbadia put Kaiserslautern ahead with his second goal before Criesi equalised three minutes later.

"It was a brilliant battle that neither team deserved to lose," Kaiserslautern coach Karlheinz Feldkamp said. "As long as we don't throw the point away against Cologne next week we can stay at the top."

New Zealand international Wynont Ruffer also scored twice as Werder went on a second half scoring spree against Fortuna.

Klaus Allofs put Werder ahead six minutes into the half before Ruffer hit his first in the 63rd minute.

Sven Demandt pulled a goal back for Fortuna in the 82nd minute then the New Zealander sealed victory with his seventh goal of the season six minutes from time.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



Kasparov adjourns 18th game

LYON, France (R) — Reigning world chess champion Garry Kasparov adjourned the 18th game of his title defence against Anatoly Karpov in what experts rated as a winning position.

Karpov left the stage at Lyon's Palais De Congress as soon as he had finished his required 40 moves in the five-hour playing session, leaving Kasparov to seal his 41st move in an envelope after 25 minutes.

The score in the match is tied at 8½ to 8½ with two wins and 13 draws for each player. Kasparov needs only a 12-12 tie to retain the title.

Karpov, despite the disadvantage of the black pieces, appeared to take the early initiative in the 18th game when he rattled off 19 sharp moves at a sprinter's pace.

Kasparov appeared confused and perplexed but after lengthy thought he produced a subtle and unexpected move which forced his rival to ponder for over an hour.

The nature of the position gradually dawned on Karpov and chess experts analysing the game realised that Kasparov had effectively countered a new idea by his challenger.

Soviet grandmaster Josif Dorfman, who used to coach Kasparov, was clearly alarmed at his former protégé.

"I've never seen him like this, like an old man. Where is his energy? Not even in Seville when he lost the 23rd game did he look so tired, like he doesn't care," Dorfman told Reuters.

As Kasparov looked confused and sank into deep thought, falling far behind on the clock, Dorfman shook his head.

"This is a sign that he is not well prepared. Things have probably changed from when I was working with him," Dorfman said.

Although a loss would leave Kasparov needing two wins and four draws from the last six games the title he held for a decade until he was toppled by Kasparov in 1985, there was still reluctance to count the challenger out.

Indonesian grandmaster Utut Adianto said: "Of course Karpov still has a chance. Inside, he is still strong, one of the strongest."

The two players were scrutinising the possibilities of the position overnight with their assistants and were due to resume the game Sunday.

Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TREXE

© 1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

NIRAY

© 1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

MINDOO

© 1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

SECCAR

© 1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumble: ABHOR FOCUS PARISH LACKY

Answer: She knew her husband like a book -- A "SCRAP" BOOK

THE Daily Crossword

by Florence C. Adler

ACROSS

1 Speechless

5 Spike a drink

9 China name

14 Sts.

15 Salt city

17 Trifling abbr.

18 Concert party

<p

Economy

Bangladesh leaders face daunting economic task

DHAKA (R) — The new leaders of Bangladesh face the daunting task of trying to right an economy reeling from political turmoil and natural disaster.

"The poverty situation of Bangladesh is still overwhelming," said Atiur Rahman, a senior Bangladeshi economist.

Economists and businessmen said President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, who resigned Tuesday, had failed after nearly nine years in power to deliver on promises to attack the grinding poverty that has been the lot of most Bangladeshis since independence in 1971.

Ershad was replaced by Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed who must oversee new parliamentary elections by March 4.

Per capita income is \$170 a year, one of the lowest in the world.

"But the poorest 40 per cent of the population survive on as little as \$82," Rahman said.

Many blame Ershad for mismanagement and for his introduction of what one businessman called "crony capitalism," or passing wealth to associates who may have taken much of it out of the country.

Ershad, who seized power in 1982 promising the private sector greater investment and export opportunities, bowed out after a three-year campaign by opposition

parties backed by students, workers and other groups.

"Many viable nationalised industries were given to his (Ershad's) men at throwaway prices. And many of them have now been closed," said a senior industry official, complaining that many of those chosen had little ability to run the businesses.

A World Bank report in October praised Ershad for some of his economic reforms and for managing the exchange rate but said much still needed to be done.

"The government is only now beginning to come to grips with ... establishing clear expenditure priorities and formulating a realistic and sound public expenditure programme," it said.

The report criticised the poor use of foreign aid which it has recommended at \$2 billion for the current fiscal year to next June, 400 million below the previous year.

The Gulf crisis has dealt another body blow to disaster-prone Bangladesh.

Official figures estimated that this fiscal year the country will lose \$100 million as its workers would normally have sent home from Iraq and Kuwait. Its oil import bill could rise by \$300 million.

Real growth

Real growth in gross domestic

product has been well below target at only 3.9 per cent a year from 1985-90 compared with a projected 5.4 per cent.

Rahman said purchasing power in the five years to the end of 1988 was about 25 per cent lower than in the second half of the 1960s.

"Real wages have shown an average decline of about five per cent annually during the past four years," he added.

Government officials said the new administration was under tremendous pressure from Ershad's foes to start inquiries into alleged squandering of national wealth.

Acting President Ahmed in his first national broadcast Friday said the country was in serious economic crisis.

He urged donor countries to continue giving aid so Bangladesh could withstand the pressure on its economy and appealed to Bangladeshis to work harder.

The message seems to have been well received at home. Engineers said in a statement Saturday they would work two extra hours a day to make up for the frequent strikes and other disruptions during Ershad's rule.

"The country has been reborn. Once again the nation begins with a clean slate," said Rehman Sobhan, a leading economist and former head of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, did not give full details of the draft budget.

Rafsanjani expressed hope that the budget would continue the social, economic and cultural improvement of his country.

The radio did not say whether, or how much, foreign borrowing was called for in the draft.

Radicats who dominate the house, oppose foreign borrowing.

But Rafsanjani, considered a pragmatist, has made it a main feature of this five-year-reconstruction plan, begun last year, which calls for \$120 billion in foreign investment.

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Walesa wins landslide victory

WARSAW (Agencies) — Ship yard electrician Lech Walesa swept to landslide victory in Poland's first popular, residential vote Sunday, taking the helm of the country he led out of communism in a decade-long struggle, exit polls showed.

The poll by the German Infas organisation said Walesa won 77 per cent of the vote to 23 per cent for Stanislaw Tyminski in the run-off poll.

It was issued minutes after polling ended at 1900 GMT in Poland's first democratic presidential election.

The agency accurately forecast the result of the first-round vote on Nov. 25 in which Tyminski shocked the nation by beating Solidarity Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki into third place and qualifying to challenge Walesa in the run-off.

The victory crowned Walesa's struggle during the 1980s as head of the Solidarity trade union to overthrow communism and establish democracy in Poland.

The 47-year-old leader, who came to symbolise the country's struggle for freedom in the 1980s, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983 for his role in establishing the union.

He has said he would be a "flying Dutchman" president, moving around the country to settle problems and speed passage to

full democracy and a free market economy.

He also said communists guilty of crimes would be punished.

The vote showed that Poles rallied to Walesa in the second round after he branded Tyminski a communist stooge. He said the emigre businessman was spearheading a counter-attack by former security police officers against the Solidarity revolution.

Walesa's share of the vote rose from 40 per cent in the first round to 77 per cent on Sunday, while Tyminski's support remained static at 23 per cent.

All opinion polls favoured Walesa to win his 10-year-struggle against communism by triumphantly replacing ex-Communist General Wojciech Jaruzelski as president.

Taking over the elegant presidential palace from Jaruzelski would be a poignant victory for Walesa, who was among thousands interned when Jaruzelski imposed martial law in 1981 in a bid to crush Solidarity.

Almost all voters among scores interviewed by Reuter reporters in Warsaw said they cast their ballots for the Solidarity leader.

"Walesa because I like him and he risked his life for us all," said 58-year-old housewife Czeslawa Grabczyk at a Warsaw polling station. "Tyminski? We know too little about him."

"Walesa will bring some order," said Robert Kaczmarek, a 51-year-old waiter. "Tyminski is an unknown man to me and my family. We don't know where he came from."

The Roman Catholic primate Cardinal Jozef Glemp, an influential figure in this overwhelmingly Catholic country, turned out to support Walesa, casting his ballot for the first time in an election.

Glemp has dismissed Tyminski as "a joke of history."

Buoyed by the forecasts of a possible landslide in his favour, Walesa was in a confident mood when he voted near his home in the northern port of Gdansk, birthplace of Solidarity.

"I voted for the best one," he said after casting his ballot with his wife Danuta and the second of their eight children, 18-year-old Slawomir.

Tyminski said nothing as he voted in the village of Pecice outside Warsaw with his Peruvian wife Graciela.

Only two of nearly 100 voters interviewed by Reuter in Warsaw said they cast their ballots for Tyminski, but pollsters believe he may do better than their surveys have forecast.

Tension was so high after a bitter, mud-slinging campaign that some voters were afraid to reveal their true intentions.

The 42-year-old challenger, unknown in Poland six weeks ago, gathered an emotional following among those hardest-hit by austerity and economic reorganisation.

His supporters include Silesian miners who face pit closures, farmers who lost subsidies and pensioners living on pittance amid continued inflation.

Tyminski, who made a business fortune in Canada and Peru, promised to show Poles how to become rich and build "a democracy of money" but he never explained how he would do it.

He complained bitterly about the campaign against him that included organised heckling and press and television allegations of wife-beating, drug-taking, epilepsy and mental illness.

Walesa mounted a no-holds-barred campaign after Tyminski, riding a tide of protest against harsh government austerity policies, came a shock second in the Nov. 25 first round.

His dramatic charge that the challenger was a front man for former Communist secret police officers trying to reverse the Solidarity revolution appeared to stop Tyminski's snowballing campaign in its tracks.

Almost all political groups as well as the church rallied to Walesa's support.

KGB reports massive food theft

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet KGB security service has said that theft by organised criminals and distribution bottlenecks were to blame for acute shortages of food and other staple goods in the Soviet Union.

In a report published by the Soviet News Agency (TASS), the KGB said it had uncovered several incidents of organised groups diverting food — one week after President Mikhail Gorbachev ordered workers' militiamen to guard against such abuses.

Imported cargoes, including food supplies, lay unloaded in ports and rail yards because of inefficient transport, it added.

But the report, entitled "uncovering the reasons for the difficulties," concentrated on Soviet-produced goods and not on the foreign aid now being sent into the country.

It described an attempt to smuggle 150 tonnes of scarce milk powder abroad, the discovery of 76 tonnes of stolen rice in a ravine in Uzbekistan, and the diversion of three to five tonnes of beef and mutton daily from a Ukrainian meat packing plant for resale at a profit.

Officers who found goods worth tens of thousands of rubles hidden in state shops were offered bribes by staff, it said.

Shipments of meat, flour, sugar and other goods from Germany, Cuba and Belgium was piling up in the port of Leningrad and 2,400 cars intended for export were stuck in the port of Riga, capital of Latvia, it said.

Worst hit of all were ports in the Soviet Far East, where bottlenecks had practically halted rail freight through Siberia.

The KGB suggested some Western firms were conniving in the blockages to drive down the price of Soviet exports.

Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders blame a thriving black market and hugely inefficient transport for the shortages of basic goods that blight the lives of consumers.

Appeals to the West to provide food aid have prompted a huge inflow of goods to Moscow and other industrial cities, but senior officials deny the country is on the brink of famine.

Moscow's Deputy Mayor Sergei Stankevich Saturday blamed the shortages on the collapsing economy and said the city council would create a special commission to protect food supplies from the black market.

A group of hardline lawmakers accused Gorbachev of turning the Soviet Union into a "beggar country" and demanded a halt to international aid, news reports said Saturday.

Indian army called into Hyderabad after riots

HYDERABAD, India (R) — The Indian army was sent into the southern city of Hyderabad Sunday with shoot-on-sight orders after at least 52 more people were killed in Hindu-Muslim violence, officials said.

Hundreds of troops were sent into the streets to stop the violence in which rampaging mobs attacked each other with knives, set fire to shops and looted them Saturday night and early Sunday.

Officials said the soldiers were ordered to shoot on sight anyone on the streets of the old city which was placed under indefinite curfew Friday when 17 people were killed in the first outbreak.

Unofficial accounts put the death toll Saturday and Sunday at 60, with witnesses saying at least eight more people were killed Sunday morning. It was the worst sectarian violence in Hyderabad which has a high Muslim population.

The officials said about 200 people were injured, some seriously, in rioting that erupted again despite the curfew.

Troops were also reported to have been sent into Aligarh, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, where serious Hindu-Muslim tension was first generated by a dispute over a holy site.

The United News of India (UNI) said 15 people had been killed in sectarian violence in Aligarh over the past two days.

Four of the dead were Muslims pulled off an express train stormed by Hindus and killed near Aligarh, home of one of India's top Muslim universities.

The mob was able to target Muslims because the names of reserved passengers are pasted on the outside of Indian train carriages.

Muslim residents said the trouble started when a small bomb was lobbed into a mosque during Friday prayers. Students at the

Muslim University had been locked into their hostels to prevent them taking to the streets, they said.

The trouble in Hyderabad began when a Muslim leader was attacked by Hindus over a land dispute. Because of high tension in Uttar Pradesh, the trouble quickly flared into riots.

The Ayodhya dispute, which has simmered for more than a year and was instrumental in the fall of two governments, sprang up again in late October.

Hindu militants twice stormed police lines in an effort to tear down the mosque they say was built by India's first Mogul emperor in 1528 on the birthplace of Lord Rama, one of the main gods in the Hindu pantheon. At least 15 people were killed.

The militants resumed their campaign Thursday, but this time largely peacefully with about 1,000 people a day offering themselves for arrest by symbolically breaching police lines around the mosque.

They were being taken to jail in buses and released after a few days.

In Ayodhya, police arrested a 23-year-old man trying to enter the mosque site carrying explosives, the area's administrator said Sunday.

District Commissioner Madhukar Gupta told Reuters: "Our boys saw two people trying to get through the fence last night."

"One ran away in the dark and into the undergrowth on that side of the site. The other was caught, carrying 28 sticks of dynamite."

He said the youth who ran away was thought to be associated with Shiv Sena, a radical Hindu party.

Gupta said since last Thursday police had arrested more than 4,000 militants involved in a civil disobedience campaign round the mosque site.

Column 8

Lennon fans honour slain idol